

What is Claimed:

1. A method of increasing the palatability of an extruded pet food product
comprising applying a palatability enhancing composition including at least one
tripolyphosphate salt to said extruded pet food composition.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing
composition comprises from about 0.1 to about 99% by weight of at least one
sodium tripolyphosphate salt.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said palatability enhancing
composition comprises from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one
sodium tripolyphosphate salt
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing
composition is applied in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.01 to
about 5.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said
pet food composition.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said palatability enhancing
composition is applied in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.05 to
about 2.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said
pet food composition.

- 5 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of meat products, meat by-products, fish products, fish by-products, dairy products, dairy by-products, sources of microbial proteins, vegetable proteins, carbohydrates and amino acids
- 10 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is a liquid, and said applying step comprises spraying said palatability enhancing composition onto said pet food composition.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said liquid composition has a pH between about 2 and about 9.
- 15 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is dry, and said applying step comprises dusting said palatability enhancing composition onto said pet food composition.
- 20 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said dry composition pH is equilibrated to between about 4 and about 10 prior to drying.
11. The method according claim 10, wherein the pH is equilibrated above about pH 4.
12. The method according to claim 9, wherein sodium tripolyphosphate salt content of said palatability composition consists essentially of $\text{Na}_5\text{P}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said extruded pet food composition is a dry cat food.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said extruded pet food composition is a semi-dry cat food.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is added to said pet food composition prior to extrusion.

16. A palatability enhancing composition for extruded pet food, said composition comprising at least one tripolyphosphate salt in an amount effective to enhance palatability and at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of meat products, meat by-products, fish products, fish by-products, dairy products, dairy by-products, sources of microbial proteins, vegetable proteins, carbohydrates and amino acids.

17. The composition of claim 16, comprising from about 0.1 to about 99% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt.

18. The composition of claim 17, comprising from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt

19. The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition is dry.

20. The composition of claim 19, wherein the pH of said composition is equilibrated to between about 4 and about 10 prior to drying.

21. The composition of claim 20, wherein said is pH equilibrated to above about 4.

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22. The composition of claim 16, wherein the sodium tripolyphosphate salt content of said composition consists essentially of $\text{Na}_5\text{P}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

23. The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition is liquid.

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24. The composition of claim 23, wherein said composition has a pH between about 2 and about 9.

25. An extruded pet food composition comprising a palatability enhancing quantity of the composition of claim 16.

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26. The pet food composition of claim 24, wherein said palatability enhancing composition comprises from about 0.1 to about 99% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt.

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27. The pet food composition of claim 26, wherein said palatability enhancing composition comprises from about 5 to about 50% by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt

28. The pet food composition of claim 25, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is present in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.01 to about 5.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition.

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29. The pet food composition of claim 28, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is present in a quantity sufficient to contribute from about 0.05 to about 2.0 percent by weight of at least one sodium tripolyphosphate salt to said pet food composition.

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30. The pet food composition of claim 25, comprising a dry cat food.

31. The pet food composition of claim 25, comprising a semi-dry cat food.

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32. The pet food composition of claim 25, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is added to said pet food composition prior to extrusion.

33. The pet food composition of claim 25, wherein said palatability enhancing composition is dusted thereon in dry form.

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34. The pet food composition of claim 33, wherein the pH of said palatability enhancing composition is equilibrated to between about 4 and about 10 prior to drying.

35. The composition of claim 34, wherein said is pH equilibrated to above about 4.

36. The pet food composition of claim 33, wherein the sodium tripolyphosphate salt
content of said palatability enhancing composition consists essentially of

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$\text{Na}_5\text{P}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

37. The pet food composition of claim 25, wherein said palatability enhancing
composition is sprayed thereon in liquid form.